REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 27-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In this regard, the Examiner contends in the Final Office Action that independent Claims 1 and 27 are obvious in view of United States Patent No. 6,505,246 to Land et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention and respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 27 and all claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 1 and 27 are directed to computer implemented collaboration systems that allow for single-user and multi-user collaboration wherein information from one or more data sources are extended in a general, shareable, updateable and synchronizable manner. The information and extended properties associated therewith are provided in a fully self-describing manner such that any client tool is capable of interpreting them. Further, the collaboration systems of Claims 1 and 27 permit different sets and values of extended properties to be provided based on a user's problem space (conference), as well as allowing sharing, updating and synchronization to apply both to multiple views of the information by a single user and multiple views of the information by multiple users.

More specifically, the computer implemented collaboration system of independent Claim 1 includes a data management tier, a repository tier, a user interface tier, and a services tier. The data management tier includes at least one data source. The repository tier includes at least one repository server that is associated with the data source and is enabled for accessing data items within the data source using access methods native to the data source to create a document including data items from the data source that is associable with at least one conference accessible to a plurality of participants. The user interface tier includes at least one client tool that is enabled for displaying the data items within the data source on a user terminal connectable with the computer implemented collaboration system. The services tier includes at least one data channel server that is associated with the document. The data channel server is created when the document is associated with the conference and provides an interface between the repository server and the client tool. The collaboration system further includes at least one extended property that is associated with each data item in the data source. The extended property is maintained within the data channel server and is available for display by the client tool only within the conference with which the document is associated.

The computer implemented collaboration system of independent Claim 27 includes at

least one repository server, at least one document server, at least one client tool and at least one data channel server. The repository server is associated with at least one data source and is enabled for accessing data items within the data source using access methods native to the data source. The document server provides at least one interface for creating a plurality of documents, with each document representing selected data items within the data source and being associable with at least one conference. The client tool is enabled for displaying the data items represented by each document on a user terminal connectable with the computer implemented collaboration system. The data channel server provides an interface between the repository server and the client tool. The data channel server is further enabled for maintaining an instance of at least one extended property associated with each data item represented in a document, with the extended properties being available for display by the client tool only within a conference with which a particular document is associated.

Collaboration systems in accordance with the limitations of Claims 1 and 27 provide for the creation of documents that represent selected data items from data sources via associated repository servers that employ access methods native to the data sources. By associating the documents with a conference, participants can collaboratively access and manipulate data from multiple data sources at the same time to solve a common problem. In this regard, extended properties associated with the data items included in the documents are maintained within a data channel server separate from the repository server that accesses the data items from the data sources. Maintaining the extended properties within the data channel server separate from the repository server provides the advantage of allowing for single user and multi-user collaboration without requiring that client tools be enabled for direct communication with one another or even have any knowledge of each other. Furthermore, extended properties are only displayed by the client tool within the conference with which a document is associated.

In contrast to the collaboration systems of Claims 1 and 27, Land discloses a network 10 monitoring system comprised of data servers 18, agents 20, and clients 22. The data server 18 collects and stores performance data from one or more computer systems 12 in the network 10. The agent 20 works in conjunction with the data server 18, and provides communication services with the clients 22, and also translates requests received for the data server 18 into commands, collects data from the clients 22, and forwards the data to the data server 18 for storage therein. The client 22 acts as an interface between data server 18, input devices 200, and display devices

202. (See Land Col. 3, lines 64-65 and Col. 4, lines 15-16, 38-43, and 53-54). As further disclosed in Land, client 22 needs a medium for communicating with data server 18 to obtain data, distribute objects, etc. from data server 18. Object request broker (ORB) 300 is the medium used. See Land Col. 5, lines 17-21.

Among other differences between the network monitoring system of Land and the present invention, Land does not disclose a collaboration system wherein data items selected from data sources are included in documents that are associated with one or more conferences and having extended properties that are only available for display by a client tool in the conference(s) with which a document is associated.

Further, as noted by the Examiner, Land does not disclose a collaboration system wherein the extended properties associated with each data item in the data source are maintained within the data channel server separate from the data items in the data sources. Land cannot be modified to achieve this characteristic of Applicant's invention, and, even if it were possible to do so, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify Land to achieve this characteristic of Applicant's invention because Land specifically teaches that presentation information associated with data to be displayed is maintained in the data server 18 that accesses such data. In this regard, Land specifically states that "[d]ata server 18 provides object-based services 306" and is further "comprised of an information base 318, a data server requester 320 and transport and other data handlers 322." (See Land Col. 5, lines 25-32.) More significantly, the presentation service included among the other services 316 comprising the object-based services 306 provides access to the presentation-related information contained in the information base 318. (See Land, Col. 6, lines 9-18). As noted above, Land specifically teaches that information base 318 comprises part of data server 18. Thus, the presentation information that the Examiner equates with the extended properties of Applicant's invention are maintained within the data server 18 that accesses, reports and otherwise manipulates the data requested by client 22 and are not maintained within the ORB 300 that provides the medium for communication (the interface) between the client 22 and the data server 18 of Land's network monitoring system. This contrasts with and teaches away from Applicant's invention, wherein the extended properties are maintained within the data channel server that provides the medium for communication (the interface) between the repository server that access the data items and the client tool that displays the data items.

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Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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